GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5150
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
DECISION OF GAIL FOR ENTERING THE TELECOM SECTOR
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has decided to enter into the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount to be invested by GAIL on the Telecom sector; and

(d) the revenue likely to be generated from the Telecom business by GAIL?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a)&(b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is planning to enter the Telecom sector as an infrastructure provider category-2 (IT-2) by utilising its existing optical fibre network of approximately 1900 k.m., which is to be expanded in three phases, along its pipeline system spread over North-West India. GAIL proposes to lease out the bandwidth capacity to various telecom operators under the National Telecom Policy-1999.

(c) The total cost of the network is estimated at Rs.500 crore, to be invested in phases.

(d) GAIL expects to earn an annual revenue of around Rs.800 crore after the completion of the project.